

27 September 2005

Dr. Tony Mega has requested that I write a letter of recommendation on his behalf in his application for a position in your organization. I am delighted to do so. I have known Tony for some twelve years as a colleague and a friend.

To give you the context of my observations and comments, I offer the following. My civilian occupation is as Associate Professor of Chemistry at Montana State University, a position I have held for eleven years. I have had teaching experience at Virginia Commonwealth University, Norwich University, the State University of New York, and Whitworth College. I retired as a Lieutenant Colonel in the Marine Corps Reserve. It is with this background that I present my remarks, evaluation, and recommendation for Tony Mega.

Scholarly Competence and Activity

Tony is an exemplary scientist and I recommend him without reservation for a position in your organization. His competence covers all aspects of being a successful and invaluable employee. His approach to his responsibilities is well balanced. He has exceptional knowledge in his major fields of chemistry and biology as well as extensive life and employment experience. He is demanding of himself and of others. I have observed a much greater degree of science literacy and initiative in Tony as compared with other staff with whom we worked together. His work ethic is superior and he tackles long and difficult but necessary tasks with grace and humor. A gentleman of high intelligence, he is usually one of the quickest with an incisive comment in a group discussion or with an astute observation in the laboratory.

Professional Competence

From my daily observations of Tony in the classroom and laboratory and listening to him interact with students and other faculty, it is clear that he stays current in his field. This aspect of his professional commitment contributes to his overall scholarly development. He routinely demonstrated remarkable mental and physical stamina while simultaneously pursuing his teaching responsibilities, his familial responsibilities, and extracurricular activities. Unquestionably, he is respected by the faculty and by his peers for his strong work ethic and professional ability. Tony thoroughly understands the essentials of academic success and career fulfillment and he brings all of this together in his extensive and unwavering desire to help others. Moreover, Tony has significant experience and effectiveness in working with small groups, not only in the classroom, but in instrument instruction and informal discussions and counseling. His enormous desire to learn and teach makes for an exciting environment for his students in the classroom and his preparation and delivery of required course materials is meticulous and thorough.

In the lab, Tony has had hands-on experience with all analytical instruments that operate with computer interface, and in particular the Nuclear Magnetic Resonance (NMR) spectrometer (the scientific equivalent to the popular Magnetic Resonance Imaging (MRI) instruments used at local hospitals). Virtually single-handedly, Tony wrote the successful grant to purchase the instrument and spent months of his personal time installing and setting it up.

Compatibility with Institutional Mission and Goals

Tony is dedicated to staying current in his professional field and conveying his knowledge to others. He is tireless and innovative in his efforts in his work and his desire to help others is

most compatible with those of a company whose mission and goals are focused on research and developing technology. Tony is mature and particularly self-confident. His interpersonal skills are strong and exceptionally well-developed and he expresses himself clearly both orally and in written communication. Having known Tony in academic and in social settings, I am fully confident that his integrity is above reproach in all aspects of his personal and professional life.

Summary

During the last twenty years, I have been asked by some ten colleagues to write letters of recommendation in support of their applications for employment. By comparison with those individuals, I would place Tony at the top academically and certainly in the top in aptitude and motivation. It is with pleasure that I commend Tony Mega to you. I urge you to consider him carefully and I would be happy to respond to any questions you have.

Sincerely,

William G. Wickun, Ph.D.
Associate Professor of Chemistry
LtCol USMC (Ret)